



# ***New England Fishery Management Council***

## ***News Release***

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### **New England Fishery Council Elects 2004-2005 Officers**

Newburyport, MA The New England Fishery Management Council elected new officers at its most recent meeting held in Fairhaven, MA on September 14-16. Frank Blount, owner and president of the Narragansett, RI-based Frances Fleet, a deep-sea charter fishing and whale watching operation, was chosen by acclamation to lead the Council through September '05.

Mr. Blount has participated as a member of key committees during his seven-year tenure as a Council member. He served on the Groundfish Committee for each of the last seven years and was committee chairman from 2001 through the present. During that period significant management measures were developed and implemented to protect and rebuild the region's valuable groundfish stocks.

During the last four consecutive years, Mr. Blount also was elected to the Council's Executive Committee, a group that oversees the Council budget, appoints advisory panel members and addresses other administrative matters relating to Council operations. His breadth of experience includes stints on the Council's Gear Conflict, Mid-Atlantic Plans, Monkfish, Dogfish, Whiting, Red Crab, Large Pelagics and Professional Standards Committees. A resident of Rhode Island, Mr. Blount holds a degree in Fisheries and Marine Technology from the University of Rhode Island and lives in Peace Dale with his wife, Christine, and their three sons.

The twenty-two member Council re-elected Tom Hill of Gloucester, MA as Vice Chairman. Mr. Hill, a marine surveyor, has been a Council member for 11 years and previously served as Chairman for four years. As the 2003-2004 Chairman, David Borden, formerly the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Assistant Director for Natural Resources, will serve on the Council's Executive Committee. Veteran Council member Dr. David Pierce, Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and Jim Odlin, a fisherman from Portland, Maine, were elected to fill the remaining two Executive Committee seats.

The Fairhaven meeting was the first regularly scheduled meeting for newly appointed Council members. Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans named fishermen Colin "Rip" Cunningham, of Dover, MA, David Goethel of Hampton, NH, and Philip Ruhle Sr. of North Kingstown, RI to their first three-year terms as Council members.

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